

DMPLS Hot Issue Brief TRACKING SYSTEM

HIB Number: 000960

Date/Time
Transmitted: 02/02/2012 11:42

Subject: THREATS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST DEFENCE CONTRACTORS AT BEECROFT
WEAPONS RANGE (BWR) IN SHOALHAVEN

Comment:
Action Area HDSO

LIMITED DISTRIBUTION - NOT TO BE FORWARDED

UNCLASSIFIED

THREATS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST DEFENCE CONTRACTORS AT BEECROFT WEAPONS RANGE (BWR) IN SHOALHAVEN

NATURE OF THE INCIDENT OR ISSUE:

- The Shoalhaven City Council (SCC) has reported to Defence that two of its council depots had received threatening phone calls over damage being done to Currarong Road by trucks doing work for Defence at Beecroft Weapons Range (BWR). It is alleged that the caller threatened [REDACTED].

DATE AND TIME:

- The threats were received on the afternoon of 1 February 2012 at Shoalhaven, NSW.

ACTIONS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY:

- The Shoalhaven City Council has reported the matter to the local Police who have advised the council that the threats will be investigated.
- Defence Support Operations contacted the managing contractor and advised them of the threats to the contractor

personnel.

- The contractor has ceased trucking activity on Currarong Road until further notice, although project work is continuing within BWR.
- Defence has attempted to get an update on the investigation this morning, but has been unable to speak with the SCC points of contact at this stage.

RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The works at Beecroft Weapons Range are for the maintenance of roads, fire trails, walking tracks and drainage infrastructure at the Beecroft Weapons Range (BWR). The scope of works is based on a consultancy which conducted a comprehensive condition appraisal under SWS1877. The works commenced in 2011 and will be completed by 29 February 2012. Defence has received some complaints about the damage to Currarong Road.

Currarong Road, the entrance to Beecroft Weapons Range, is a public access road maintained by the Shoalhaven City Council. Defence, project related trucks, are not the only heavy vehicles using the road, that is, council waste removal trucks, delivery trucks, council road maintenance trucks travel this road daily, to and from Currarong Village and the public boat ramp.

Defence has been discussing the condition of Currarong Road with Shoalhaven City Council. There are no designated weight restriction signs posted by either the RTA or Shoalhaven City Council on any portion of this road. In consultation with Shoalhaven City Council and local police, Defence has supported a proposed reduction in the speed limit from 100kmh to 80kmh along Currarong Road.

There is a significant increase in local and holiday traffic to the Currarong Village during the school holidays. During 2011 the local Roads Authority also conducted major sewer infrastructure works parallel to the shoulder of Currarong Road

for its entire length to Coonamia Road. This, in combination with annual rain fall over the last 6 months of 2011 resulted in the road verges collapsing.

Potential slippage of the project caused by ceasing trucking activity on Currarong Road is unknown at this time.

Contact Officer:	██████████	W:	██████████	M:	██████████
Authorised by:	Mark Jenkin	W:	02 6265 6135	M:	██████████
AS SIM Clearance	Marc Ablong	W:	02 6265 7897	M:	██████████

Date Issued: 2 February 2012

Proposed Public Release Date or Pre-condition: 9 February 2011